

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

April 27, 2011

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Rural
Healthcare
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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you concerning the Federal Communications Commission proposed reforms to the Rural Health Care Program of the Universal Service Fund. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments has notified me that it is closely monitoring these efforts.

I am requesting the Federal Communications Commission carefully consider changes to the universal service health care support mechanism. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments has informed me that it supports a final rule which includes an open and competitive bidding process to seek funding for the construction of broadband health networks. The Council has already created a non-profit entity, Brazos 2020 Vision, with the goal of providing affordable connections to health care facilities in the area. A properly designed and administered health infrastructure program could provide significant telemedicine benefits to the Brazos Valley in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact David Quinalty at 4 - 0827.

Sincerely,


Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/lh



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform the federal universal service rural health care support mechanism. I appreciate your specific recommendation to adopt a health care infrastructure program that will allow a one-time investment in projects such as Brazos 2020 Vision.

The Commission is committed to the goal of providing the important benefits of the rural health care program to eligible health care providers. The Commission is considering a proposed infrastructure along with a variety of other reforms proposed in the Commission's July 2010 Rural Health Care *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*. The Commission staff is reviewing the comments related to the proposed reforms to the rural health care program; a copy of your letter has been entered into the record of that proceeding. The Commission will give careful consideration to all of the comments as it moves forward.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the word "Sincerely," and the printed name "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski